

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SAN SA 00226 01 OF 02 180106Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 /020 W
-----036421 180122Z /63

P R 171445Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 SAN SALVADOR 00226

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), XK, ES
SUBJECT: VISIT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

REF: SAN SALVADOR 0174

1. FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR SECRETARY TODMAN'S
MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ROMERO:

QTE IT IS AN HONOR AND PLEASURE TO MEET WITH YOU AND RENEW
OUR ACQUAINTANCE AFTER YOUR VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN SEPTEMBER
FOR THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY SIGNING CEREMONIES.

QTE I HAVE NOTED WITH GREAT INTEREST THAT YOUR INVITATION
TO THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MADE AT THE TIME
OF YOUR VISIT TO WASHINGTON HAS RESULTED IN A COMMISSION TEAM
COMING TO EL SALVADOR TO LOOK INTO THE SITUATION HERE. THE
FACT THAT YOU TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO INVITE THE COMMISSION WILL
ALWAYS STAND TO YOUR CREDIT. THE COOPERATION YOUR GOVERNMENT
ACCORDED THE COMMISSION MUST ALSO BE COMMENDED. I AM THUS
EVEN MORE CONFIDENT THAT RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH MAY COME OUT
OF THE COMMISSION FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF THE SITUATION HERE WILL
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BE CARRIED OUT PROMPTLY AND WHOLEHEARTEDLY.

QTE ALSO YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE TIME OF YOUR WASHINGTON
VISIT OF RATIFICATION OF THE MEDIATION AGREEMENT WITH HONDURAS
HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY ACTION WHICH PROMISES TO RESULT IN A SOLUTION
OF THE DISPUTE. WE ARE HOPEFUL A SOLUTION MAY COME ABOUT
SOON SO THAT, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLES OF BOTH COUNTRIES

AND GREATER PROSPERITY IN THE ENTIRE REGION, NORMAL RELATIONS CAN BE RESTORED. THE US WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE WHATEVER SUPPORT POSSIBLE THROUGH THE OAS TO HELP YOUR EFFORTS. WE APPLAUD THE INITIATIVES YOU PERSONALLY HAVE TAKEN WITH PRESIDENT MELGAR TO MEET TOGETHER AND PROVIDE THE GUIDANCE AND THE ENLIGHTENED SPIRIT SO USEFUL AND EVEN NECESSARY TO THE MEDIATION EFFORT.

QTE I AM ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN WHEN YOU WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AT THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CONFERENCE IN NEW ORLEANS IN FEBRUARY. I PERSONALLY APPRECIATE YOUR FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION TO SPEAK AND YOUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP MAKE THE CONFERENCE A SUCCESS.

QTE I WISH AT THIS POINT TO EMPHASIZE US INTEREST IN THE CONTINUED SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN EL SALVADOR. WE WANT TO CONTINUE OUR ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR IN WHATEVER MANNER IS DECIDED MUTUALLY BETWEEN US. WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS ON YOUR NEW LAND TAX LAW AND ON PLANS FOR ACQUIRING LAND FOR SALE, PRESUMABLY ON CONCESSIONARY TERMS, TO CAMPESINO COOPERATIVES. THESE MOVES SEEN TO US TO BE BENEFICIAL MOVES TOWARD IMPROVEMENT OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE CAMPESINO, SUCH A CRITICAL SECTOR OF YOUR SOCIETY.

QTE IN THIS REGARD I AM SERIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER WHAT MAY OCCUR IN OUR CONGRESS WITH REGARD TO ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, AS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE NUMEROUS REPORTS OF CONTINUED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OF SUPPRESSION OF HUMAN FREEDOMS. EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE NOTED CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION AND CERTAINLY FOUND MEASURES YOU HAVE TAKEN AS SETTING THE TONE AND DIRECTION FOR CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT, THE EMBASSY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FIND IT DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO REFUTE CHARGES IN SPECIFIC CASES. WE KNOW IT IS NEVER EASY TO PROVE SOMETHING IS NOT SO BUT BELIEVE YOUR GOVERNMENT COULD HELP BY WORKING WITH US TO BRING OUT THE TRUTH IN SPECIFIC CASES. I APPEAL FOR YOUR HELP AND COOPERATION IN THIS REGARD.

QTE AS YOUR KNOW, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE MUST AGAIN SUBMIT TO CONGRESS THIS YEAR A REPORT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR. WITH A RECENT CHANGE IN OUR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT SUCH REPORTS MUST BE PREPARED NOT ONLY FOR COUNTRIES RECEIVING SECURITY ASSISTANCE BUT ALSO FOR THOSE RECEIVING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. THE REPORT IS NOW READY FOR RELEASE AND I CAN GIVE YOU AN ADVANCE COPY (GIVE COPY IF AVAILABLE). I BELIEVE YOU WILL AGREE THAT THERE MAY BE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN CONGRESS WITH THIS REPORT AND CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE CAN BE EXPECTED.

QTE CLOSELY RELATED TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE ARE SEVERAL OTHER ISSUES OF GREAT INTEREST TO US AND OF GREAT IMPORTANCE

TO THE FUTURE OF EL SALVADOR. AMBASSADOR DEVINE HAS LAREADY
SPOKEN TO YOU ABOUT OUR DESIRE TO HELP FACILITATE A CLOSER DIALOGUE
BETWEEN CHURCH LEADERS AND THE GOVERNMENT. CONSIDERING THE FACT
THAT YOU, AS THE GOVERNMENT LEADER, AND THE CHURCH BOTH HAVE
IMPROVEMENT IN THE LOT OF THE MASSES OF EL SALVADOR AT HEART,
WE BELIEVE YO HAVE A COMMON BASIS FOR DIALOGUE.

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 /020 W
-----031607 180123Z /63

P R 171445Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6663
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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QTE I FEEL MYSELF THAT THE ADJUSTMENTS ON BOTH SIDES SHOULD
NOT BE ALL THAT DIFFICULT TO MAKE. FOR INSTANCE, A MORE
EFFECTIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE OPPOSITION TO EXPRESS ITSELF SEEMS
TO USE TO BE ONE WAY TO HELP CLEAR THE AIR. WE THINK IT UN-
FORTUNATE THAT SOME WAY COULD NOT HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BRING
THE OPPOSITION INTO THE UPCMMING ELECTIONS. WE THINK A GREAT
OPPORTUNITY TO BROADEN THE BASE OF GOVERNMENT, AND TO ALLOW
THE SYSTEM TO LET OFF STEAM, MAY HAVE BEEN LOST. I HAVE, INCIDENT-
ALLY, SAID MUCH THE SAME THING TO MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMO-
CRATIC PARTY WITH WHOM I MET AT BREAKFAST THIS MORNING.

QTE MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE GIVEN YOU MUCH FOOD FOR THOUGHT,
AND IN ALL SINCERITY AND AS AN ATTENTIVE LISTENER I WOULD LIKE
TO HEAR FROM YOU HOW YOU SEE CURRENT PROBLEMS IN, AND THE FUTURE
OF, US-SALVADORAN RELATIONS. I WISH TO BE GUIDED BY YOUR THOUGHTS
ON THESE SUBJECTS. UNQTE

2. TRANSLATION TO ABOVE CAN BE PROVIDED, IF DESIRED. THE CON-
VERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE IN SPANISH.

DEVINE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANSAA00226
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780025-0843
Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780155/aaaabuaj.tel
Line Count: 168
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eccacfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SAN SALVADOR 174
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3762302
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN
TAGS: OVIP, XK, ES, (TODMAN, TERENCE A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eccacfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014